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before birth. He exhibited two perfectly developed young, which he had taken from the mother on the 30th of November last; in these the spines were each covered at the point with a small knob of cartilage, fastened by straps of the same material, passing down one on each of the three sides of each spine, in such a manner as evidently to become easily detached at birth, thus allowing the little animal to commence life effectively armed. He mentioned that the female in question contained a large number of eggs, in various states of development, in addition to the two fully-formed young; and he took occasion to remark, that this fish is so destructive to herrings that fishermen look on it with abhorrence: in this he thought they were wrong, for he considers that some of the success of fishing with driving nets is to be attributed to the headlong haste with which shoals of herrings go along when pursued by enormous packs of dog-fishes, and that thus they serve man rather than injure him. Fishermen, however, destroy the dog-fish whenever it falls into their power, as they did the specimen which gave occasion to this notice.

Dr. Allman mentioned an analogous fact in the ova of *Cristatella mucedo*.

Rev. N. J. Halpin commenced the reading of a paper on some passages in the life of Shakspeare.

Rev. Dr. Drummond presented to the Museum an ancient Ogham inscription, on the part of Francis W. Jennings, Esq.

Mr. Robert Mallet presented a drawing of a silver antique ring found in Ireland, and presented to the British Museum by Lord Enniskillen, containing an inscription in characters resembling Chinese.

DONATIONS.

Proceedings connected with the magnetical and meteorological Conference, held at Cambridge, in June, 1845. Presented by the Association.